

Social Enterprise Finance Australia

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Social Enterprise Snapshot

MiHaven increases opportunities for vocational training

MiHaven Property Fund's pilot project, renovating a Queenslander style home and building a stylish inner city home, will support the training and employment of indigenous job seekers in Cairns.



Photo: Graduates of MiLife Change Program

'Our key goal is to support each and every one of our participants into securing long-term employment. SEFA's support demonstrates we are a viable investment with strong social and financial returns.'

Sarah Mort, Director & Co-founder,
MiHaven Property Fund

MiHaven is a for-profit business that helps chronically unemployed indigenous Australians enter long-term sustainable employment in construction and related industries. As a construction company and a registered training organisation, MiHaven can provide apprenticeships and certificates in construction and warehouse logistics. It runs a 20-week training program, MiLife Change Program, which is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment. Trainees work 35 hours a week and confront head on their multiple personal barriers, such as lack of work experience, extremely low numeracy and literacy, scars of domestic violence, chronic health issues, and addictions to drugs and alcohol. The program also features a life skills component, led by strong and experienced indigenous mentors. Upon completion, graduates receive a Certificate II in warehousing and construction.

In a pilot project, the MiHaven Property Fund (MPF), will purchase a old Queenslander-style house on a large block in Parramatta Park, Cairns, using SEFA loan finance. The land will be sub-divided, the original house renovated and a stylish inner city home built on the land. Both properties will then be sold.

The MPF has expressed interest in the potential to sell the properties to indigenous buyers by forging a relationship with the Indigenous Bank of Australia's home loan program. There are also plans to replicate the model in other parts of Australia, including Darwin and northern New South Wales.



What SEFA says

MiHaven's proactive approach to employment training is inspiring. They are achieving positive long-term employment outcomes for indigenous Australians, which matches well with our own vision and mission.